

**What is claimed is:**

1        1: A method for transferring digital data comprising:  
2                 removing a first mass storage device from an information handling system;  
3                 reading at least a portion of digital data from said first mass storage device while  
4         said first mass storage device is operated with said information handling system while  
5         said first mass storage device is unmounted; and  
6                 storing said digital data read from said first mass storage device to a second mass  
7         storage device mounted with said information handling system.

1        2: The method of claim 1, which further comprises, prior to removing a first mass  
2         storage device from an information handling system, storing said digital data to said first  
3         mass storage device while said first mass storage device is substantially mounted with  
4         said information handling system.

1        3: The method of claim 1, wherein said first mass storage device includes:  
2                 a first data port, said first data port having a configuration so as to be utilized  
3         when said first mass storage device is operated while mounted with said information  
4         system, and  
5                 a second data port, said second data port having a configuration so as to be  
6         utilized when said first mass storage device is operated with said information system  
7         while said first mass storage device is unmounted.

1        4: The method of claim 1, wherein reading at least a portion of digital data from said first  
2         mass storage device includes determining the at least a portion of said digital data to read  
3         from said first mass storage device.

1       5: The method of claim 4, wherein determining the at least a portion of said digital data  
2       to read from said first mass storage device comprises marking the at least a portion of  
3       said digital data before said first mass storage device is removed from said information  
4       system.

1       6: The method of claim 5, wherein said marking of the at least a portion of said digital  
2       data comprises utilizing an indexing system.

1       7: The method of claim 1, wherein reading at least a portion of digital data from said first  
2       mass storage device comprises placing said first mass storage device in a cradle after  
3       removing said first mass storage device from said information handling system.

1       8: The method of claim 7, wherein said reading at least a portion of said digital data from  
2       said first mass storage device comprises transmitting the at least a portion said digital  
3       data from said first mass storage device to said information handling system in a serial  
4       fashion.

1       9: The method of claim 8, wherein said method further comprises storing digital data in  
2       said first mass storage device in a parallel fashion, before removing said first mass  
3       storage device from said information handling system.

1       10: The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises mounting said second  
2       mass storage device with said information platform after said first mass storage device  
3       has been removed.

1       11: An apparatus comprising:  
2              a mass storage device having a configuration so as to be used in conjunction with

3 a system which includes the capability to at least in part store digital data;

4 said mass storage device including:

5 a first data port, and

6 a second data port.

1 12: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said mass storage device is further arranged to

2 principally utilize, during operation, said first data port when said mass storage

3 device is operated while mounted with said system and arranged to

4 principally utilize, during operation, said second data port when said mass storage

5 device is operated with said system while said mass storage device is unmounted.

1 13: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said second data port of said mass storage device

2 is arranged to be coupled, during operation, to another mass storage device, which is

3 substantially mounted with said system.

1 14: The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said second data port further has the capability to

2 both transmit and receive digital data from said system.

1 15: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said mass storage, when operated with said

2 system while said mass storage device is unmounted, transmits digital data from said

3 mass storage device utilizing said second data port.

1 16: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first data port is configured to, during

2 operation, communicate with said system via a substantially parallel protocol.

1    17: The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said substantially parallel protocol comprises one  
2    of the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated  
3    Device Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1    18: The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said second data port is configured to, during  
2    operation, communicate with said system via a substantially serial protocol.

1    19: The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said substantially serial protocol comprises one  
2    of the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus  
3    (USB) protocol, a protocol substantially complaint with the IEEE 1394 specification  
4    (a.k.a. Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1    20: The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said mass storage device is capable, during  
2    operating, of receiving operating power via said second data port.

1    21: The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said second data port is configured to, during  
2    operation, communicate with said system via a substantially parallel protocol.

1    22: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said mass storage device comprises a hard disk  
2    drive.

1    23: The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said second data port comprises a cradle which is  
2    capable, during operation, of re-formatting digital data from said first data port before  
3    transmitting said digital data to said system.

1    24: An apparatus comprising:  
2         a cradle having a configuration to hold a mass storage device;

3           said cradle being further configured so that said cradle has the capability to  
4   reformat digital data received from said mass storage device and transmit said  
5   reformatted digital data to an information handling system.

1   25: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle is further configured so that said  
2   cradle has the capability to reformat digital data received from said information handling  
3   system and transmit said reformatted digital data to said mass storage device.

1   26: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle is further configured so that said mass  
2   storage device may be fixed mounted to said cradle.

1   27: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is  
2   configured to, during operation, transmit said reformatted digital data to said information  
3   handling system via a substantially serial protocol.

4   28: The apparatus of claim 27, said substantially serial protocol comprises one of the  
5   protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus (USB)  
6   protocol, a protocol substantially complaint with the IEEE 1394 specification (a.k.a.  
7   Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1   29: The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is  
2   adapted to receive, during operation, digital data from said mass storage device via a  
3   substantially parallel protocol.

1   30: The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said substantially parallel protocol comprises one  
2   of the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated  
3   Device Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1       31: The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said cradle is capable of, during operation,  
2       providing operating power to said mass storage device.

1       32: A system comprising:  
2                  an information handling platform, which has the capability to at least in part store  
3       digital data; and  
4                  a mass storage device including  
5                          a first data port, and  
6                          a second data port;  
7                  wherein said mass storage device is coupled to said information handling  
8       platform.

1       33: The system of claim 32, wherein said mass storage device is further arranged to  
2                  principally utilize, during operation, said first data port when said mass storage  
3       device is operated while mounted with said platform and arranged to  
4                  principally utilize said second data port when said mass storage device is operated  
5       with said information handling platform while said mass storage device is unmounted.

1       34: The system of claim 32, wherein said mass storage device, when operated said  
2       information handling platform while said mass storage device is unmounted, transmits  
3       digital data from said mass storage device utilizing said second data port.

1       35: The system of claim 32, wherein the said first data port of said mass storage device is  
2       configured to, during operation, communicate with said information handling platform  
3       via a substantially parallel protocol.

1    36: The system of claim 35, wherein said substantially parallel protocol comprises one of  
2    the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated  
3    Device Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1    37: The system of claim 35, wherein said second data port of said mass storage device is  
2    configured to, during operation, communicate with said information handling platform  
3    via a substantially serial protocol.

1    38: The system of claim 37, wherein said substantially serial protocol comprises one of  
2    the protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus  
3    (USB) protocol, a protocol substantially complaint with the IEEE 1394 specification  
4    (a.k.a. Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1    39: The system of claim 32, wherein said mass storage device comprises a hard disk  
2    drive and said information handling platform comprises a computer.

1    40: A system comprising:  
2                 an information handling platform, which includes the capability to at least in part  
3                 store digital data;  
4                 a mass storage device; and  
5                 a cradle having a configuration so as to hold said mass storage device;  
6                 said cradle further having a configuration so that said cradle has the capability to  
7                 reformat digital data received from said mass storage device and transmit said  
8                 reformatted digital data to said information handling platform.

1    41: The system of claim 40, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is  
2    configured to, during operation, transmit said reformatted digital data to said information  
3    handling system via a substantially serial protocol.

1    42: The system of claim 41, said substantially serial protocol comprises one of the  
2    protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Universal Serial Bus (USB)  
3    protocol, a protocol substantially complaint with the IEEE 1394 specification (a.k.a.  
4    Firewire), and a short-range wireless communications protocol.

1    43: The system of claim 41, wherein said cradle comprises a data port which is adapted  
2    to receive, during operation, digital data from said mass storage device via a substantially  
3    parallel protocol.

1    44: The system of claim 43, wherein said substantially parallel protocol one of the  
2    protocols selected from a group consisting essentially of the Enhanced Integrated Device  
3    Electronics (EIDE) protocol, and the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI).

1    45: The system of claim 40, wherein said mass storage device comprises a hard drive  
2    and said information handling platform comprises a computer.